

Status of the Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A method of treating a bodily vessel comprising the steps of:
inserting a catheter having a distal portion into a body vessel, the distal portion having an expandable region, an expandable stent being disposed about at least a portion of the expandable region;
advancing the distal portion to a desired location in a bodily vessel;
delivering the stent to the desired location by expanding the expandable region from an unexpanded diameter to an expanded diameter;
delivering heat to the stent during the expansion of the expandable region.
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the stent is at least partially constructed of stainless steel.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the expanded region is expanded by delivering a heated contrast agent to the expandable region.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein a heated contrast agent is delivered to the distal portion as the stent is delivered.
6. (Previously Presented) A method of treating a bodily vessel comprising the steps of:
advancing a stent delivery catheter comprising a stent constructed substantially of stainless steel to a desired location in a bodily vessel; delivering the stent in the bodily vessel at the desired location; and heating the stent during delivery.
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6 wherein the stent is conductively heated by directing energy to the stent through a portion of the catheter.
8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 wherein the bodily vessel is heated by the stent.
9. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 6 wherein the stent is conductively heated by directing an RF electromagnetic field to the stent desired location.
- 10-13 (Cancelled)
14. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 6 wherein the stent is ultrasonically heated.
- 15-17 (Cancelled)

Application No. 10/785349
Page 3

Response To Restriction Requirement

18. (Withdrawn) A stent delivery apparatus comprising:

a catheter having a distal region and an ultrasonic transducer element positioned within the distal region, the ultrasonic transducer element constructed and arranged to generate ultrasonic waves; and

an expandable stainless steel stent, prior to delivery the stent being disposed about at least a portion of the distal region.

19-29 (Cancelled)